

**Men's Reproductive Health Services in the Northern Cape,
South Africa**

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ABSTRACT

Very little research has been conducted on men's reproductive health services in South Africa. The 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing provided a foundation for expanding reproductive health services to include men.

Many men and programme planners lack a clear understanding of what men's reproductive health means. Services for men in South Africa are typically housed in settings where staff lack training in male sexuality and reproductive health.

This research study was conducted in the Northern Cape. Three sets of data were used. The researcher undertook a situational analysis with key informants in order to understand the situation, services and needs for men's sexual and reproductive health, identify barriers and obstacles to good quality reproductive health care and analysed existing plans and reports. Focus groups with men were conducted and key informants of the Department of Health were interviewed.

The study has assessed progress made since the implementation of the National Health Plan of South Africa and has provided key future recommendations for the realization of ICPD adopted by South Africa in 1994. The findings of this research strongly emphasizes that all policies, programmes, information and services need to reflect the social realities of men and how this affects their health. The outcome of this research will be the development of a model that will serve as a framework for programme development and service delivery that will constitute basic reproductive health care for men.

The study recommends that the Northern Cape Department of Health must design a reproductive health programme that integrates male health care including impotence, STIs, infertility and other conditions. Special advocacy

strategies and messages should be developed to target men to raise awareness about their involvement in reproductive health

This broader definition of male health will make it easier for men to walk into a health facility.

DECLARATION

I declare that this dissertation is my own, unaided work. It is submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the degree of Master of Management (Public and Development Management) by Research and Dissertation in the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. It has not been submitted before for any degree or examination in any other University.

Pheya Alinah Mabote

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my son Tumi Percival and my siblings for their love and support. Without you Dad and Mum, I would not have come this far.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome
AVSC	Association for Voluntary and Surgical Contraception
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
DHS	Demographic Health Survey
FWCW	Fourth World Conference on Women
GFID	German Foundation for International Development
HERA	Health, Empowerment, Rights and Accountability
HIV	Human Immuno-deficiency Virus
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
IPPF	International Planned Parenthood Federation
MCH	Maternal and Child Health
PATH	The Programme for Appropriate Technology in Health
NGOs	Non-governmental Health
RHO	Reproductive Health Outlook
STDs	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
STIs	Sexually Transmitted Infections
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	United Nations AID
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
WHO	World Health Organisation